

Att'y Dkt. No. US-1270

U.S. App. No: 09/459,573

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite the Claims as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1-44 (cancelled).

45. (currently amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-glutamic acid and L-proline, comprising:
cultivating a bacterium in a culture medium, to produce and accumulate the L-amino acid in the medium, and recovering the L-amino acid from the medium,
said bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* and having the ability to produce an L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-proline and L-glutamic acid,
wherein an expression amount of ~~at least one protein selected from the group consisting of:~~

(A) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 10; and

~~(B) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with a polynucleotide having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9 under stringent conditions of 60°C, 1x SSC, and 0.1% SDS, and which has an activity of excreting L-proline, L-lysine, and L-glutamic acid,~~

is increased relative to the expression of said protein in a wild-type strain MG1655 or W3110 by increasing the copy number of a DNA coding for said protein in said bacterium or by replacing the native promoter with a stronger promoter for expression of a DNA coding for said protein.

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46. (currently amended) The method of Claim 45, wherein the copy number of a DNA coding for said protein in a bacterium is increased.
47. (previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector in the bacterium.
48. (previously presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon in the bacterium.
49. (cancelled)
50. (cancelled)
51. (cancelled)
52. (previously presented) The method of Claim 45, wherein the L-amino acid is L-glutamic acid.
53. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the L-amino acid is L-proline.